



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3736.3.7>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:199324A2-CAAC-4359-9A80-C208B1FE9932>

Redescription of *Parapercis punctata* (Cuvier, 1829) and status of *Neosillago* Castelnau, 1875 and its type species *Neosillago marmorata* Castelnau, 1875 (Perciformes: Pinguipedidae)

HSUAN-CHING HO

National Museum of Marine Biology, Pingtung, Taiwan.

Institute of Marine Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Pingtung, Taiwan.

E-mail: hohc@nmmba.gov.tw

Abstract

The status of two doubtful fish species is reviewed. *Percis punctata* Cuvier, 1829 is confirmed to be a valid species of *Parapercis* Bleeker, 1863 and a senior synonym of *Parapercis guezei* Fourmanoir, 1966. A redescription of *Parapercis punctata* is provided, based on four specimens collected from the western Indian Ocean. Examination of the holotype of *Neosillago marmorata* Castelnau, 1875 revealed that *Neosillago* is a junior synonym of *Parapercis* and *N. marmorata* is a junior synonym of *Parapercis nebulosa* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1825).

Keywords: taxonomy, synonym, *Percis punctata*, *Neosillago*, *Neosillago marmorata*, *Parapercis*

Introduction

Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes (1829) provided a brief description, mostly of coloration, of *Percis punctata* based on a single specimen collected from an unknown locality. This species was regarded as a doubtful species in *Parapercis* by Cantwell (1964: 245). Subsequently, Fourmanoir (1966) described *Parapercis guezei* based on two specimens collected from Cap La Houssaye, Réunion. Both species have rarely been mentioned, despite more than 20 publications on *Parapercis*, describing new species, dealing with nomenclature issues, checklists and regional guides in the past two decades (pers. obs.).

Randall (1984:41) and Randall and Francis (1993:210) recognized *P. guezei* as a junior synonym of *P. punctata*. However, neither of these publications included justification for the synonymy, or detailed information on the species in question. Up to the present, no valid diagnostic characters for *P. punctata* (or *P. guezei*) have been recorded, so the taxonomic uncertainty of these species has remained. For example, Sparks & Baldwin (2012:38) mentioned that it was impossible to determine whether *P. punctata* was valid. The author examined the holotype of *P. punctata*, two type specimens of *P. guezei* and one additional non-type specimen. This confirmed that *P. punctata* is a valid species of *Parapercis* and *P. guezei* is a junior synonym of *P. punctata*, as suggested by Randall (1984). A detailed description for *P. punctata* is provided based on the four specimens examined.

Castelnau (1875) described a new genus, *Neosillago*, and its type species *N. marmorata* based on a single specimen collected from Port Walcott, Western Australia (20°35'28"S, 117°10'55"E) by the Rev. Mr Bostock. Kaga (2013) briefly discussed the possible status of *Neosillago marmorata* and suggested its characters "well agree with percophid *Bembropinea*". According to the Eschmeyer (2013) the whereabouts of the holotype is unknown. While visiting the fish collection of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, the author found a specimen labeled as holotype of *Neosillago marmorata*. This specimen is confirmed to be the primary type, described by Count F. de Castelnau in 1875. A discussion on status of the genus and the species is provided.

References

- Cantwell, G.E. (1964) A revision of the genus *Parapercis*, family Mugiloididae. *Pacific Science*, 18, 239–280.
- Castelnau, F.L. (1875) Researches on the fishes of Australia. Philadelphia Centennial Expedition of 1876. *Intercolonial Exhibition Essays*, 1875–6 (2), 1–52.
- Cuvier, G. & Valenciennes, A. (1829) Histoire naturelle des poissons. Tome troisième. Suite du Livre troisième. Des percoïdes à dorsale unique à sept rayons branchiaux et à dents en velours ou en cardes. F.G. Levrault, Paris. *Histoire naturelle des poissons*, 3, 1–500.
- Eschmeyer, W.N. (Ed.) (2013) Genera, species references. Available from: <http://research.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp> (Accessed 3 September 2013)
- Fricke, R. (1999) *Fishes of the Mascarene Islands (Réunion, Mauritius, Rodriguez). An annotated checklist with descriptions of new species*. Koeltz Scientific Books, Koenigstein, pp. 1–759.
- Fourmanoir, P. (1966) Trois espèces nouvelles de poissons perciformes du Viet-Nam et de la Réunion. *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Série 2)*, 38 (3), 217–222.
- Kaga, K. (2013) Phylogenetic systematics of the family Sillaginidae (Percomorpha: order Perciformes). *Zootaxa*, 3642 (1), 1–105.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3642.1.1>
- Quoy, J.R.C. & Gaimard, J.P. (1825) Chapter IX. Description des Poissons. In: Freycinet, L. de (Ed.), *Voyage autour du Monde, fait par ordre du Roi, exécuté sur les corvettes de L. M. "L'Uranie" et "La Physicienne," pendant les années 1817, 1818, 1819 et 1820*. Pillet, Aine, Imprimerie royale, Paris, pp. 329–616.
- Randall, J.E. (1984) Two new Indo-Pacific mugiloidid fishes of the genus *Parapercis*. *Freshwater and Marine Aquarium*, 7 (12), 41–49.
- Randall, J.E. (2003) Review of the sandperches of the *Parapercis cylindrica* complex (Perciformes: Pinguipedidae), with description of two new species from the western Pacific. *Bishop Museum Occasional Papers*, 72, 1–19.
- Randall, J.E. & Francis, M.P. (1993) *Parapercis colemani*, a new pinguipedid fish from Norfolk Island, south-western Pacific Ocean. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*, 27 (2), 209–214.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00288330.1993.9516559>
- Randall, J.E., Senou, H. & Yoshino, T. (2008) Three new pinguipedid fishes of the genus *Parapercis* from Japan. *Bulletin of the National Museum of Nature and Science (Ser. A)*, Supplement 2, 69–84.
- Russell, B.C., Fraser, T.H. & Larson, H.K. (2010) Castelnau's collection of Singapore fishes described by Pieter Bleeker. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*, 58 (1), 93–102.
- Steindachner, F. (1900) Fische aus dem Stillen Ocean. Ergebnisse einer Reise nach dem Pacific (Schauinsland, 1896–1897). *Anzeiger der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien*, 16, 174–178.
- Sparks, J.S. & Baldwin, Z.H. (2012) A new species of *Parapercis* (Teleostei: Pinguipedidae) from Madagascar. *Zootaxa*, 3204, 31–39.